



CROSS CONNECTION & BACKFLOW PREVENTION

THIS INFORMATION IS TAKEN FROM THE “CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION MANUAL”, INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CITY OF CROWN POINT ORDINANCE.

WHAT IS A “CROSS CONNECTION”?

WHEN A PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED, EITHER CONTINUOUSLY OR INTERMITTENTLY, WITH ANY SECONDARY SOURCE OF SUPPLY, SEWER, DRAIN, CONDUIT, POOL, PIPING, STORAGE RESERVOIR, PLUMBING FIXTURE, OR OTHER DEVICE WHICH CONTAINS, OR MAY CONTAIN, AND IS CAPABLE OF IMPARTING TO THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY, CONTAMINANTS, CONTAMINATED WATER, SEWAGE, OR OTHER WASTE OR LIQUID OF UNKNOWN OR UNSAFE QUALITY.

WHAT IS “BACKFLOW”?

THE FLOW OF CONTAMINANTS INTO THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FROM A SOURCE OTHER THAN THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

WHY IS BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIRED?

NO PLUMBING FIXTURE, DEVICE, OR CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE INSTALLED OR MAINTAINED OR SHALL BE CONNECTED TO ANY DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY, WHEN SUCH INSTALLATION OR CONNECTION MAY PROVIDE A POSSIBILITY OF POLLUTING SUCH WATER SUPPLY OR MAY PROVIDE A CROSS CONNECTION BETWEEN A DISTRIBUTING SYSTEM OF WATER FOR DRINKING AND DOMESTIC PURPOSES AND WATER WHICH MAY BECOME CONTAMINATED BY SUCH PLUMBING FIXTURE DEVICES OR CONSTRUCTION UNLESS THERE IS PROVIDED AN APPROVED BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE.

WHO GOVERNS THESE REGULATIONS?

THE STATE OF INDIANA GOVERNS CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION THROUGH THE INDIANA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (REGULATIONS).

WHY AND HOW OFTEN MUST MY BACKFLOW DEVICE BE TESTED?

PER 327 IAC 8-10-8: THE CUSTOMER SHALL HAVE EACH DEVICE INSPECTED OR TESTED BY A CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL DEVICE INSPECTOR AT THE TIME OF CONSTRUCTION OR INSTALLATION, AND AT THE FOLLOWING INTERVALS, IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

1. **REDUCED PRESSURE (RP)** PRINCIPLE BACKFLOW PREVENTERS SHALL BE TESTED AT INTERVALS NOT EXCEEDING SIX (6) MONTHS TO ENSURE THAT BOTH CHECK VALVES ARE DRIP-TIGHT UNDER ALL PRESSURE DIFFERENTIALS, AND THAT THE PRESSURE DIFFERENTIAL VALVE WILL MAINTAIN PRESSURE IN THE CENTER CHAMBER AT LEAST TWO (2) POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH BELOW THAT OF THE INLET CHAMBER.
2. **DOUBLE CHECK VALVE (DC) (FIRE SYSTEMS)** BREAKER SHALL BE TESTED AT INTERVALS NOT EXCEEDING ONE (1) YEAR TO ENSURE THAT THE AIR INLET OPENS FULLY WHEN WATER PRESSURE IS AT OR BELOW ATMOSPHERIC.
3. **PRESSURE TYPE VACUUM (PVB) BREAKERS (IRRIGATION SYSTEMS)** SHALL BE TESTED AT INTERVALS NOT EXCEEDING (1) YEAR TO ENSURE THAT THE AIR INLET OPENS FULLY WHEN WATER PRESSURE IS AT OR BELOW ATMOSPHERIC.

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR NOT TESTING MY BACKFLOW DEVICE?

PER CITY ORDINANCE §50.99: WHOEVER FAILS TO COMPLY WITH REQUIRED TESTING UNDER §50.17(F) SHALL BE FINED NOT LESS THAN \$250 FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION AND NOT LESS THAN \$500 FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION. THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR ANY VIOLATION SHALL BE NOT MORE THAN \$2,500. FOR ANY VIOLATION, THE SUPERINTENDENT MAY DENY OR DISCONTINUE SERVICE PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF §50.15.

WHO CAN TEST MY BACKFLOW DEVICE?

ONLY A STATE OF INDIANA IDEM CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TESTER THAT IS LICENSED WITH THE CITY OF CROWN POINT CAN PERFORM TESTS ON THE CROWN POINT WATER SYSTEM.

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING PROCEDURES?

PER CITY ORDINANCE §50.17(F): ALL BACKFLOW TESTING DOCUMENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY UTILITIES DEPARTMENT @ 590 E. ANDERSON STREET, CROWN POINT, IN, 46307 WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF TESTING. TEST RESULTS MAY BE FAXED TO THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT AT 219-661-2286.